Sale of spurious drugs in the market

2238. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of flooding of spurious drugs in the market in Delhi;

(b) the reasons for the markets getting flooded with sub-standard drugs; and

(c) the action taken by Government in respect of part (a) above and for implementation of the existing laws regarding manufacture of drugs and the monitoring machinery made more effective in curbing the manufacture and marketing of spurious and sub-standard drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. This is a clandestine' activity indulged in by some unscrupulous and anti-social persons. As per the feed back available from Drugs Control Administration, Government of NCT of Delhi, out of the 743 test reports of drugs received during the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002. 11 drugs were reported to be spurious and 26 drugs were reported to be substandard. Besides, during the period 2001-2002, 1476 survey samples were also collected by Drugs Control Administration. Government of NCT of Delhi from licensed retail chemists through decoy customers/watchers for quick screening of active ingredients. 1475 samples have been tested but none was reported as spurious. It is not a fact that the market in Delhi is flooded with substandard or spurious drugs.

(c) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder. State Government have been empowered to enforce quality of drugs including check on manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide for specific definition of spurious drugs and severe penalties extending to life imprisonment have been prescribed.

State Governments have been advised from time to time to provide adequate enforcement machinery and drug testing facilities and to keep strict surveillance over the inter-State movement of spurious drugs facilities of Central Government testing labs have also been made available to the States for testing of drugs besides financial assistance provided to them to augment and strengthen their testing capabilities.

The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the State Drugs Controller to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:—

(i) Constitution and reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry associations as well as consumer associations should fine representation. Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted such a committee which consists of representatives of Indian Medical Association, Delhi Medical Association, All India Small Scale Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers Association (Delhi Branch), Chemists Association and Voluntary Consumer Forums.

(ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(iii) Training should be provided to selected officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of spurious counterfiet drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own State level drug testing facilities.

(v) State Drugs Control Authorities should be cautions while approving licenses for drug product to ensure that look-alike products are not encouraged.

(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain cooperation of pharmaceutical industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) Programme.

In addition the following steps have been taken

1. Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.
2. The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
3. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from industry, trade, drug regulatory officials and public representative to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

Decline in purchase of medicines by MSO

2239. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of medicines purchased by the Medical Store Organisation, which is responsible for the purchase of medicines for Government organisations at the Centre and States as well as the para-military forces, has been steadily coming down during the last five years;